

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 EUR-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PRS-01 RSR-01

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R 161310Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4666

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12808

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MILITARY OPERATIONS IN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS  
QUANG NGAI PROVINCE

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL DANANG DATED 14 JULY  
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 887

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI US

SUBJECT: MILITARY OPERATIONS IN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS,  
QUANG NGAI PROVINCE

REF: DANANG 826, 859

1. QUANG NGAI POLOFF HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION  
TO UPDATE THE REPORTING IN THE REFERENCED SITREPS REGARDING  
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ARVN OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN QUANG NGAI PROVINCE.

2. ACCORDING TO ARVN 6TH REGIMENT COMMANDER LTC LAI, ARVN AND TF UNITS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RESTRICT THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF THEIR OPERATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE CEASEFIRE, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ALTERING THEIR OBJECTIVE OF SECURING ALL TERRITORY IN THE LOWLANDS. FRIENDLY UNITS HAVE THEREFORE ADOPTED A NEW STRATEGY DESIGNED TO SQUEEZE ENEMY UNITS OUT OF THE LOWLANDS BY APPLYING STEADY PRESSURE AND BLOCKING MAJOR ENEMY COMMUNICATIONS AND SUPPLY ROUTES. LAI CLAIMED THAT THE STRATEGY IS WORKING IN EASTERN BINH SON WHERE TOW 6TH REGIMENT BATTALIONS HAVE BEEN GRADUALLY PUSHING INTO THE VC BASE AREA IN BINH NAM (V).

3. THE 40TH LOCAL FORCE BATTALION HAS WITHDRAWN FROM BINH NAM TO WESTERN SON TINH DISTRICT, REPORTEDLY BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN OBTAINING FOOD AND MILITARY SUPPLIES. DURING THE PAST WEEK MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED "HOI CHANH" FROM BINH NAM GAVE THEMSELVES UP TO ARVN 6TH REGIMENT TROOPS IN NEIGHBORING BINH AN VILLAGE, ALSO CLAIMING THAT THEY WERE SHORT OF FOOD. MOST OF THE RETURNEES WERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN THOUGHT TO BE THE FAMILIES OF THE 30TH LOCAL FORCE BATTALION WHICH IS STILL IN BINH NAM.

4. LAI SAID THAT HE IS USING THE SAME STRATEGY IN WESTERN SON TINH. ONE BATTALION NOW OCCUPIES THE AREA AROUND NUI TRONG FOR THE PURPOSE OF BLOCKING ENEMY INFILTRATION AND SUPPLY ROUTES FROM THE WEST. THE 137TH RF BATTALION IS CURRENTLY IN A BLOCKING POSITION ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE TRA KHUC RIVER IN TU NGHIA DISTRICT. OTHER TF UNITS ARE LOCATED IN SON TRUNG (V) TO THE EAST. IN THIS WAY LAI HOPES TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE 40TH LOCAL FORCE AND 406TH SAPPER BATTALIONS LOCATED IN THE POCKET BETWEEN SON TRUNG AND NUI TRONG AND EVENTUALLY FORCE THEM TO WITHDRAW TO THE WEST. ONCE THEY HAVE WITHDRAWN ARVN TROOPS WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE IN AND FILL THE VACUUM WITHOUT FORCING A MAJOR MILITARY CONFRONTATION.

5. SON TINH DISTRICT CHIEF MAJ TRAN NGOC TAN WAS LESS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR RESECURING WESTERN SON TINH AND RE-OPENING PROVINCIAL ROUTE 5B TO SON HA. TAN NOTED THAT THE AREA HAS BEEN UNDER ENEMY CONTROL FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS AND THAT

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PREVIOUS EFFORTS TO RETAIN IT HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL. TAN SAID THAT A COMBINED ARVN AND RF FORCE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN ITS ATTEMPT IN EARLY JUNE TO RUN A CLEARING OPERATION WESTWARD FROM SON-TRUNG (V). THEY ABANDONED THE OPERATION AFTER TWO WEEKS AFTER FAILING TO PENETRATE BEYOND THE SUOI HA STREAM IN EASTERN SON LOC (V) (BS569770).

6. TAN INDICATED THAT THE 2ND DIVISION HAD OUTLINED AN ALTER-

NATE OPERATION WHICH WOULD INVOLVE A BATTALION-SIZE SWEEP FROM SON KIM (V) (BS5783) SOUTH TO THE TRA KHUC RIVER, BUT COULD NOT SAY WHEN OR WHETHER THIS PLAN MIGHT BE PUT INTO EFFECT. BG NHUT CG 2ND ARVN DIVISION SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD ARRO DIRECTOR THAT PLANS FOR THIS SWEEP HAD BEEN ABANDONED AND THAT THE ARVN BTN ASTRIDE ROUTE 5B WOULD CONTENT ITSELF WITH INTERDICTING THE MAJOR RESUPPLY ROUTES FROM THE WEST OF THE VC UNITS IN THE AREA.

BROWN

UNQUOTE.

APPLING

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